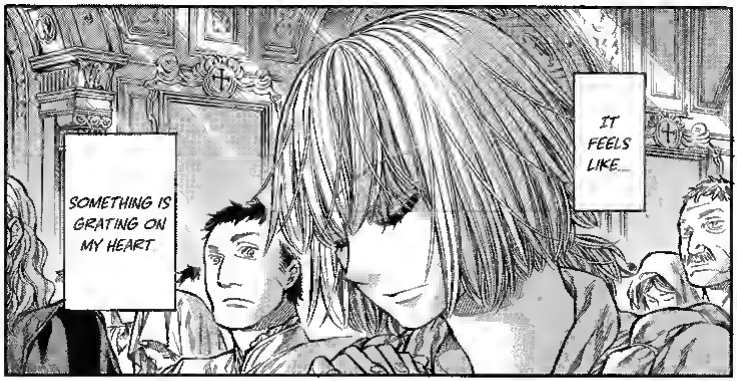
Arte

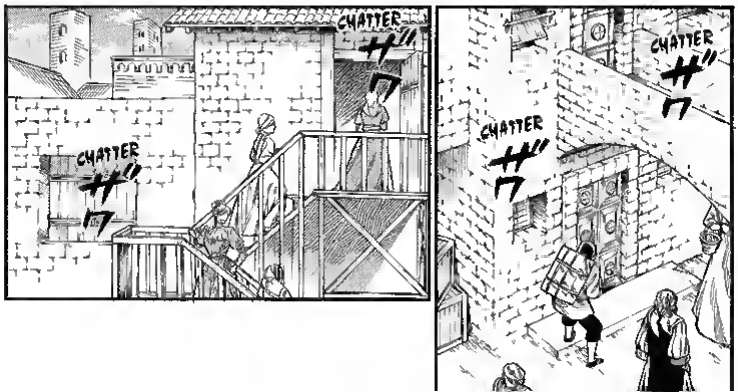
Art and Story by
Kei Ohkubo

SUNDAY MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL.

A CROSS-SECTION OF THE CITY, GATHERED IN ONE PLACE...

NOW SHE'S A LOWLY COMMONER LIKE US
WHEN I LOOK AT HER
I HEARD SHE WORKS AT THE WORK-SHOP
ISN'T SHE FROM A NOBLE FAMILY?
WISPER...
LOOK
LOOK
BUT
OH, SHE'S THE ONE


SOMETHING IS GRATING ON MY HEART
IT FEELS LIKE


CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

HAND ME THAT NEEDLE
HE LEFT TOWN TO WORK NEAR VENEZIA

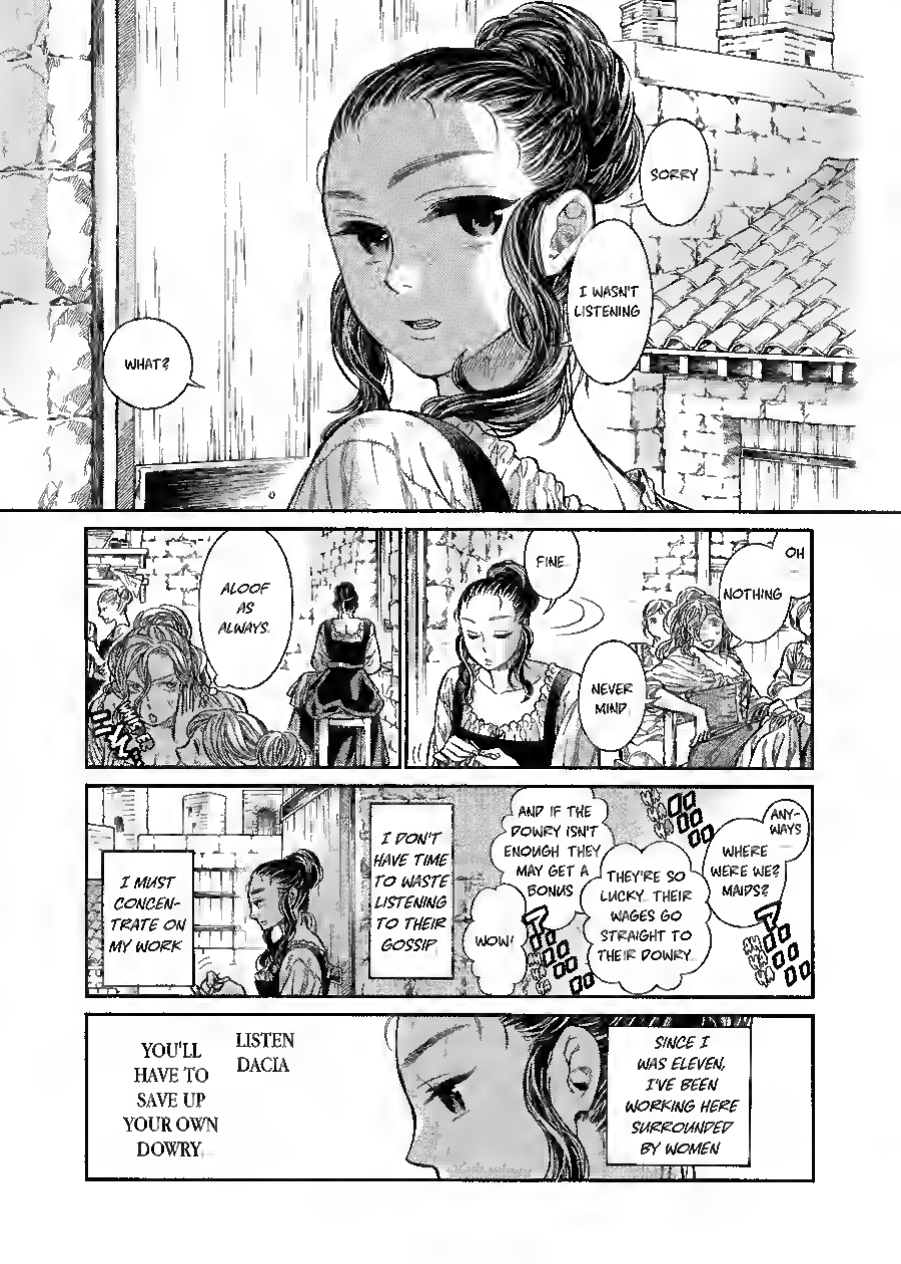
YOU SURE HE'S NOT PLAYING YOU?
HUH!?
MEN DON'T LOOK FOR WOMEN WITHOUT AN AMPLE DOWRY, DO THEY?

WHAT CAN I DO? THE PAY HERE'S SO LOW...
WE KNOW
A MAID JOB WOULD'VE BEEN IDEAL...

GOOD MORNING
MORN'N
HOW'RE THINGS GOING WITH THAT GUY?

RIGHT DACIA!
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
!

IT'S NOT A JOB ANYONE CAN DO. YOU NEED A REFERRAL AND BE TRUSTWORTHY
NO WAY! KNOWING YOU, YOU'D RUN AWAY WITH THE VALUABLES!
AH
あは
HA
は
HA
は
HA
は
COME NOW!
IT WOULD BE NICE THOUGH
THAT HURTS!


WHAT?
I WASN'T LISTENING
SORRY
ALOOF AS ALWAYS.
FINE.
NEVER MIND.
OH
NOTHING
I MUST CONCENTRATE ON MY WORK
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE LISTENING TO THEIR GOSSIP.
WOW!
AND IF THE DOWRY ISN'T ENOUGH THEY MAY GET A BONUS
THEY'RE SO LUCKY. THEIR WAGES GO STRAIGHT TO THEIR DOWRY.
WHERE WERE WE? MAIDS?
ANY-WAYS
YOU'LL HAVE TO SAVE UP YOUR OWN DOWRY.
LISTEN DACIA
SINCE I WAS ELEVEN, I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE SURROUNDED BY WOMEN

JEEZ
OKAY ... I'LL START LOOKING FOR WORK NEXT YEAR
DO THAT!
AND IT'S THE PARENTS' DUTY TO LOOK AFTER YOU... UNTIL YOU MARRY OFF.
THAT'S THE DUTY OF A FARMER'S DAUGHTER.
THEREAFTER IT'LL BE THE HUSBAND'S JOB.
THE UPPER CLASS CAN PROVIDE A PROPER DOWRY FOR THEIR DAUGHTERS, BUT...
WOMEN JUST COST MONEY...
AT LEAST A SON'D BE USEFUL
NOT LIKE THEY'RE SAVING UP AT ALL...
WHAT ARE THEY THINK-ING?
THEY'RE NOT, MOST LIKELY
Yeah!
NO REALLY !!
NO WAY!
THE POOR ARE BUSY JUST MAKING ENDS MEET.
CHATTER
CHATTER
SURE BUMP THEIR GUMS,
THEY CAN...

THE HANDS OF THE RICH...
I BET THEY'RE SOFT AND SMOOTH...
MY HANDS ARE CALLOUSED FROM WORKING AS A SEAMSTRESS EVERY DAY
!
CAN'T YOU GIVE US A RAISE!?
SIGNORE ?
ACT ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY AFTER YOU BRING US MORE WORK!
AH!
HE'S SO INFURI-ATING!
SLAM
STOP IT
NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM DEFYING MEN
BE GRATE-FUL YOU WOMEN EVEN HAVE WORK IN THE FIRST PLACE!
ALL OF YA SHUT IT, AND GET TO WORK!
I HAVEN'T GOT A PENNY TO SAVE!
WE'RE NOT SPRING CHICK-ENS!
THERE ARE DAYS I CAN'T EVEN BUY BREAD!
WHAH?

AH!
ISN'T THAT UNFAIR?
EH...
WHEN TIMES ARE GOOD, WE GET A SHARE OF THE GOOD JOBS TOO
WHEN TIMES ARE SLIM, IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR MEN TO KEEP THE GOOD JOBS TO THEMSELVES
STICK!
STICK!
WHAH!?
THAT GIRL!
HMM.
THE RUMORED NOBLE GIRL
YOU KNOW SHE EARNS JUST AS MUCH AS MEN DO.
NO! REALLY!?
SOME RICH GIRL WORKING ISN'T THE SAME AS US.
I'M SO ENVI-OUS
I'D LIKE TO SEE A MAN'S SALARY!
LOOKING AT HER REMINDS ME OF HOW UNFAIR LIFE IS
WHY DOES OUR BIRTH DECIDE OUR LIVES?
I KEEP MY EARNINGS UNDER MY PILLOW
ALL MY WORK FOR THIS MEAGER SUM

BUT,
THIS MONEY IS A...
MIRROR OF MY WORTH...
ARE YOU OK..?

HOW DID I END UP LIKE THIS?
HUH...
UHH... YOU OK?
THEN THAT GIRL...
カクン
Collapse
I don't feel good
I HAVEN'T BEEN EATING WELL TO SAVE MONEY,
ON MY WAY HOME I FELT ILL...
Dizzy フラフラ
CONFUSION
UHH, HMM... I THINK
NO-THING TO WORRY
ABOUT
SMOOCH
I'M AS HEALTHY AS AN OX!
SEE, NO PROBLEM!
I'M FINE, NEVER BETTER !!
ガバッ
BOING
UM
ぱっ

WHERE IS YOUR HOUSE?
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE
UM
HOLD ON THERE!
UHHH
Y-
YOU'RE NOT FINE AT ALL!
OF COURSE
THE HANDS
OF A NOBLE
SO SMOOTH
SO NICE
STARE
!!?

MY
SHW
STARE...
MY HANDS ?
EH!?
W WHY
IS SHE OGLING
CALLOUSED.
ROUGH HANDS!!
!!
LET

LET GO OF ME!
WHA!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!?
GAWKING AT PEOPLE'S HANDS!
ARE DIRTY HANDS SUCH A RARE SIGHT!?
HMMF!
LIKE A NOBLE WOULD UNDERSTAND! WORKING IS JUST SOME TYPE OF GAME TO YOU!
DON'T PATRONIZE ME!!
ポカーン
BAFFLED

HM?
BE HERE?
oink
oink
COULD THIS...
DEPRESSION
SIGH...
Morning
Morning
CHATTER
CHATTER

EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW HER INTENTIONS,
SEEMS TO BE ANNOYED WITH SOMETHING
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN STAND-OFFISH
BUT THE LAST FEW DAYS SHE'S BEEN REALLY DOWN
WHISPER
AND, SHE ALSO
WHISPER
BECAUSE OF MY OWN INSECURITIES, I GOT UPSET
STITCH
AND TREATED HER SO RUDELY
STITCH
WHY DID I SAY IT LIKE THAT...?
IT'S NOT...
AS IF IT WAS HER FAULT...
DON'T PAT. ONIZE ME!!
ARE DIRTY HANDS SUCH A RARE SIGHT!?
HEY!
I GOT A WORK ORDER!
FLINCH

WHAT!!?
ANYWAY!
RUSH
RUSH
MUST GET TO WORK!
YEAH YEAH
LOUD MOUTH-ED!
TIMES ARE TOUGH. NOTHING I CAN DO
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE CUTTING OUR PAY!?
WE DON'T MAKE ENOUGH AS IS!
WAVE
WAVE
HEY!
IF YOU CAN'T BE GRATEFUL FOR THE WORK I BRING...
I'LL STOP BRINGING YOU WORK!
NO
IT'S NOT HER FAULT.

YOU!
BUT,
BE HAPPY WITH MY LEFTOVERS, OR BE HAPPY WITH NOTHING
YOU'RE WOMEN AFTER ALL YOU CAN'T DO A MAN'S WORK
WHY DOES LIFE
HAVE TO BE SO
UNSPARING FOR US?
EH?
WHY DO...
CLENCH
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
BAM
!

THWAP
HUFF
HUFF
SEAR

WHY DO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO SEW JUST UNDERGARMENTS!?
HUH?
UGH!
WHY DO WE ONLY GET THE LOWLY JOBS!
STOP SIPHONING THE GOOD JOBS OFF TO MEN!!
WE CAN ALSO SEW OTHER THINGS, LIKE DRESSES!
GIVE US MORE MEANINGFUL JOBS! I KNOW WE CAN DO IT!
SILENCE
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

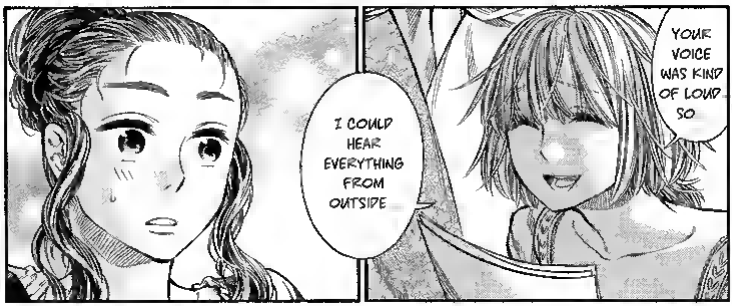
DACIA
I
ボーゼン
AMAZEMENT
WHA
WHAH
EH!?
GIVE US HIGHER WAGES!
IT'S LIKE DACIA SAID!
!
BUT YOU SURE TOLD HIM
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE ON THE FLAKY SIDE,
EH!?
STOP PRIORITIZING THE MEN!
SHE'S RIGHT!
ENOUGH!
HERE, DO AS YOU LIKE
PLAP
YEAH
ARGH
YEAH
NMMM
UHH
EHH!?
LET US HAVE SOME REAL JOBS TOO!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US!

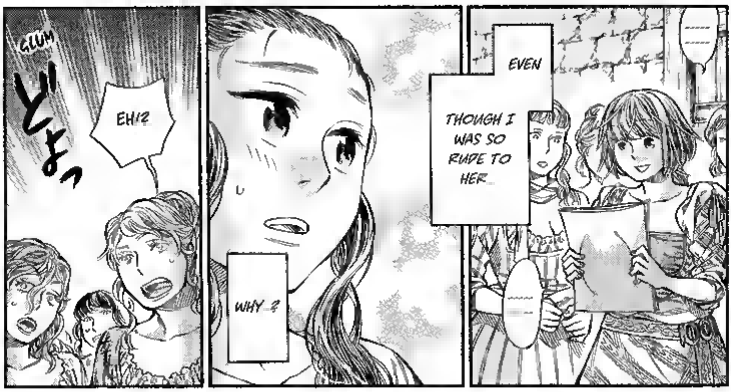
RUNNING FROM A BUNCH OF WOMEN!? YOU COWAAARD!
DACIA!
YOU'RE AMAZING!
DID YOU SEE HIS FACE?
WHAT A HOOT!
はっはっはっ
Shuffle
!
HM?
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE DIDN'T
HE DIDN'T FINISH EXPLAIN-ING IT.
ER... THE ORDER SHEET
WHAT'S WRONG?
HM?
SILENCE
わはは
IF WE COULD, DO YOU THINK WE'D BE HERE?
NO way!
Shuffle
Shuffle
Shuffle
UMM
CAN ANYONE HERE READ?

HEY DACIA!
ARE YOU OKAY!?
SLUMP
へたっ
WHAT'LL WE DO? WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THE ORDERS OUT
IF PEOPLE LOSE CONFIDENCE IN OUR ABILITY, IT MEANS NO MORE WORK WILL COME TO US
YOU OKAY? WHAT IS WRONG?
DO YOU FEEL ILL?
WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
IT'S ALL MY FAULT
EVERYONE HERE WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS
BECAUSE I LOST MY TEMPER!
KNOCK KNOCK
HELLO?

THERE YOU ARE!!
HEY!
Y-
YOU
I JUST HAPPENED TO SEE YOU WALK INTO THIS BUILDING!
PERFECT! ISN'T THIS YOURS?
UM...
THIS IS...
SCOOP

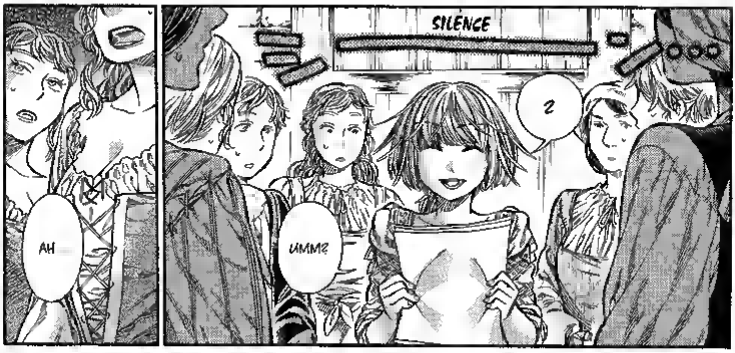
WOULD YOU LIKE ME
TO READ THE ORDER SHEETS FOR YOU?

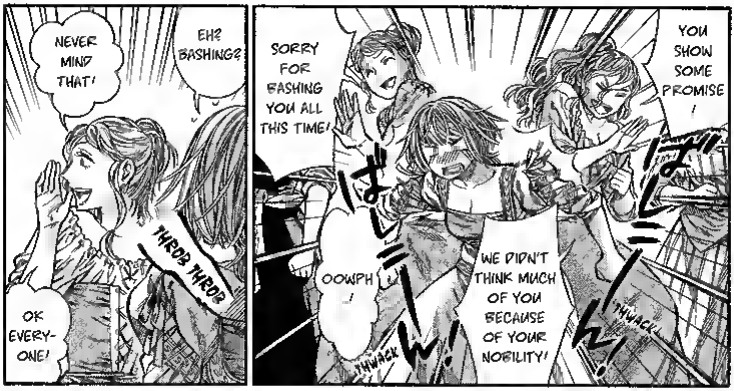

YOUR VOICE WAS KIND OF LOUD SO
I COULD HEAR EVERYTHING FROM OUTSIDE

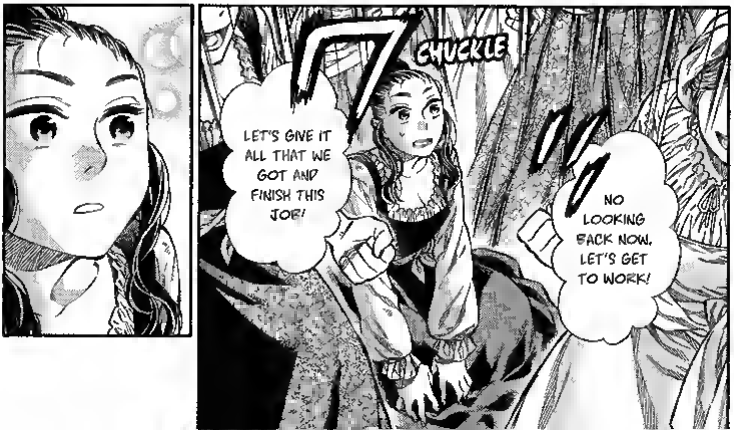

GLUM
どよん
EH!?
WHY ?
EVEN THOUGH I WAS SO RUDE TO HER

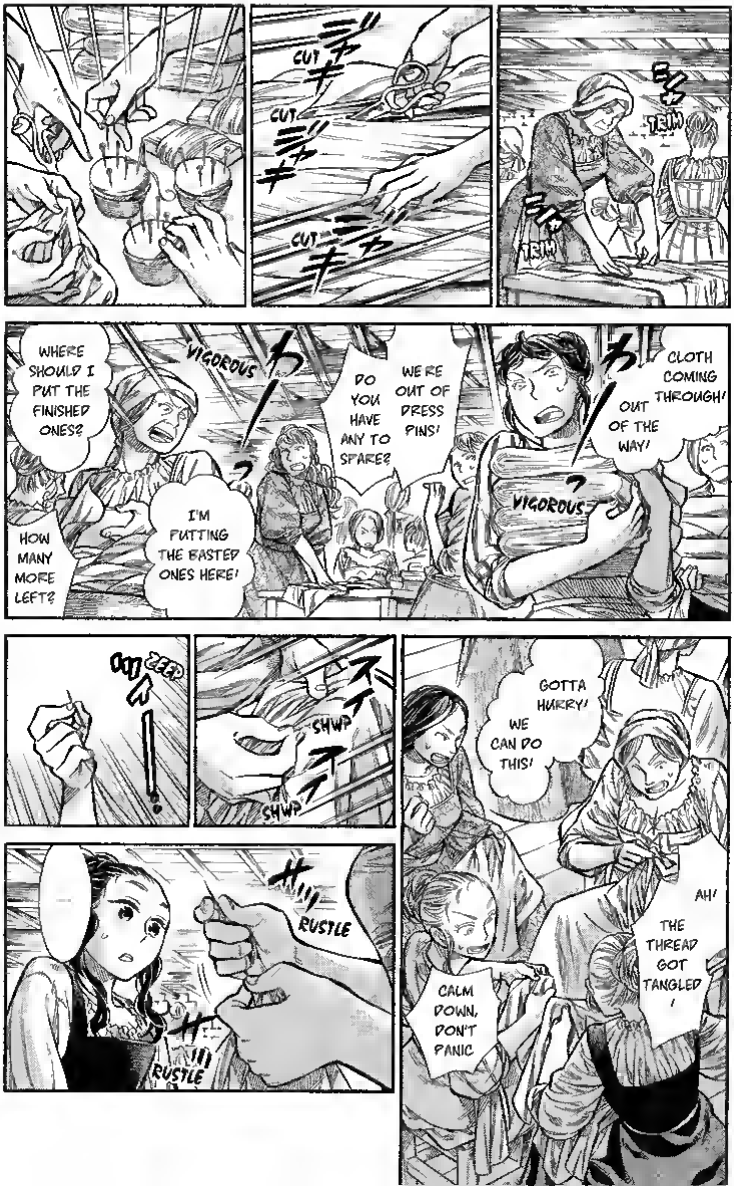
GLUM
どよ
GLUM
どよ
HE DID THIS ON PURPOSE TO GET BACK AT US!
THAT MAN!
HE MUST'VE HAD JOBS FOR OTHER WORK-ROOMS HERE TOO
どよ
GLUM
どよ
GLUM
YES...
THAT'S WHAT'S WRITTEN HERE
IT'S MORE THAN A DAY'S WORK!
YOU'RE SURE THAT YOU READ THE ORDER RIGHT!?
THIS IS NOTHING
けろ。
LET'S DO IT!
!!
THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE
BE-SIDES,
IT'S MY DAY OFF ANY-WAY!
I'LL WORK TOO!
YOU HAVE NO SAY HERE
Hey!
HEY!

DOESN'T IT PEEVE YOU?
LET'S SHOW HIM UP WE CAN DO IT!
!


AH
UMM?
SILENCE
2


NEVER MIND THAT!
EH? BASHING?
THROB THROB
OK EVERY-ONE!
SORRY FOR BASHING YOU ALL THIS TIME!
OOWPH!
THWACK
WE DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR NOBILITY!
YOU SHOW SOME PROMISE!
THWACK!


CHUCKLE
LET'S GIVE IT ALL THAT WE GOT AND FINISH THIS JOB!
NO LOOKING BACK NOW. LET'S GET TO WORK!


CUT
CUT
CUT
TRIM
TRIM
WHERE SHOULD I PUT THE FINISHED ONES?
VIGOROUS
DO YOU HAVE ANY TO SPARE?
WE'RE OUT OF DRESS PINS!
CLOTH COMING THROUGH! OUT OF THE WAY!
VIGOROUS
HOW MANY MORE LEFT?
I'M PUTTING THE BASTED ONES HERE!
CUT
SHWP
SHWP
GOTTA HURRY! WE CAN DO THIS!
AH! THE THREAD GOT TANGLED!
CALM DOWN, DON'T PANIC
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

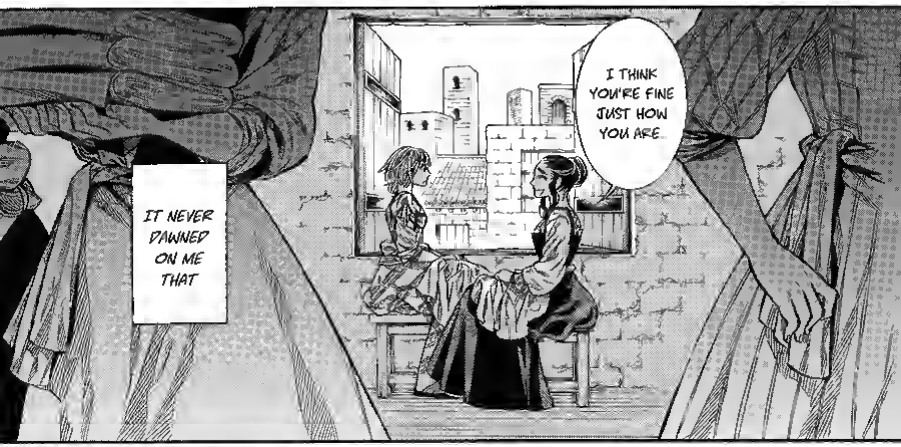
EH?
Gyne!
YOU
YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS
GOOD THING YOU'RE HELPING
SWIP
SWIP
THANK YOU
YOU'RE AMAZ-ING
I CAN'T SEW LIKE YOU
I WAS TAUGHT SEWING AND EMBROIDERY FROM A YOUNG AGE
SLIDE
ER...
UM
KUSH
WORK
WORK

SORRY FOR THE OTHER DAY
I'M SORRY.
EH?
I JUST COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOUR HANDS
I WAS AMAZED BY THE CALLUSES
ばっ
WSH
AH WAIT!
!!
I WASN'T PATRONIZING YOU!!
ゴゴゴ
WIPE
YOUR HANDS
HOW DO I SAY ?

YOUR HANDS ARE THAT OF A CRAFTSMAN,
THAT'S SO "AWESOME"...
HM?
TEE HEE
I'M SO HAPPY WHEN I GET A CALLUS, I SCRATCH IT ALL DAY
THAT'S WHY...
I'M ENVIOUS OF THEM!
EH?
JUST LIKE MASTER LEO!
OH! MY MASTER'S HANDS ARE COVERED WITH CALLUSES!
REALLY?
I ADMIRE THOSE HANDS!
I CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE HANDS LIKE YOURS...

YOU'RE A LITTLE
ポカーン
BAFFLED
UHH ?
WEIRD!!?
WEIRD
W
SHOCK
HEH
BUT HOW TO CHANGE ?
NMMH
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
HUH?
WHAH ?
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
AHH!
I THINK MASTER LEO TOLD ME THE SAME THING!!
AM I THAT WEIRD ?
I'LL CHANGE !

SO SORRY
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
S
?


I THINK YOU'RE FINE JUST HOW YOU ARE
IT NEVER DAWNED ON ME THAT

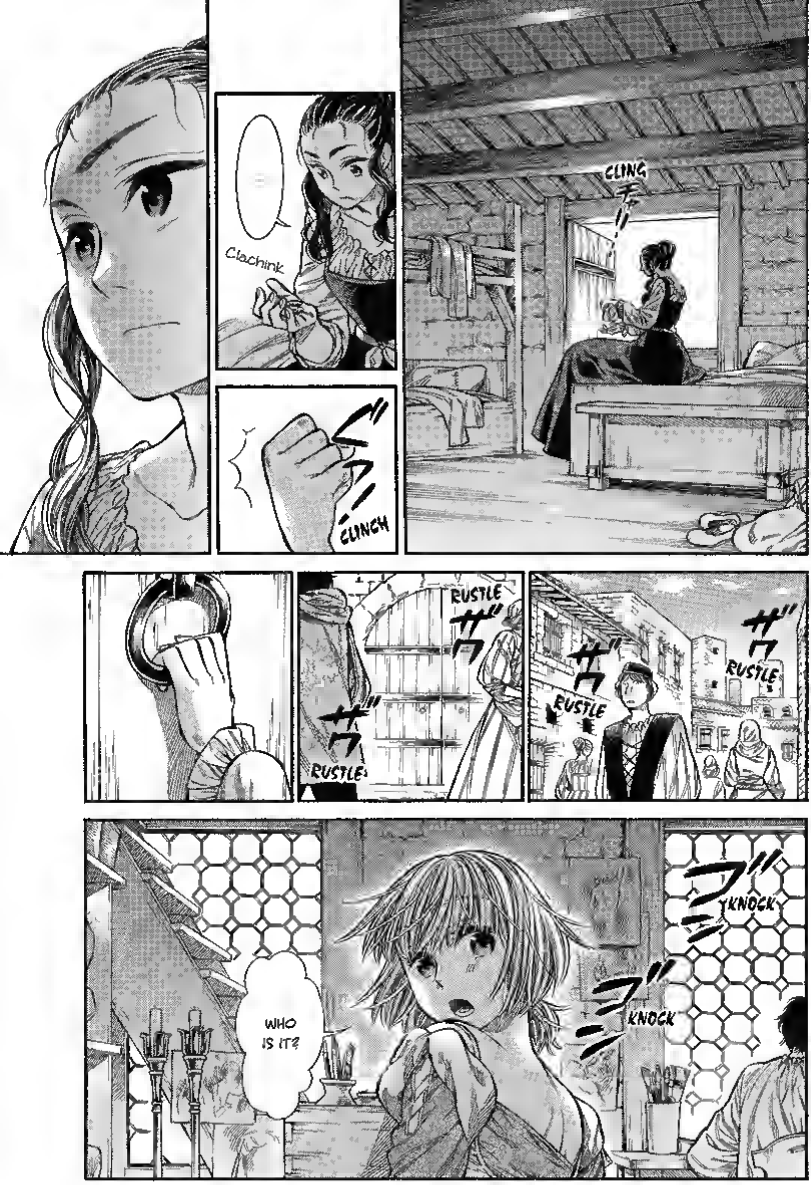
IT NEVER DAWNED ON ME THAT
WE'D SHOW UP THE MEN

MY HANDS WERE SOMETHING TO BE ENVIOUS OF.

I WOULD BE NEVER BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

CAN I...

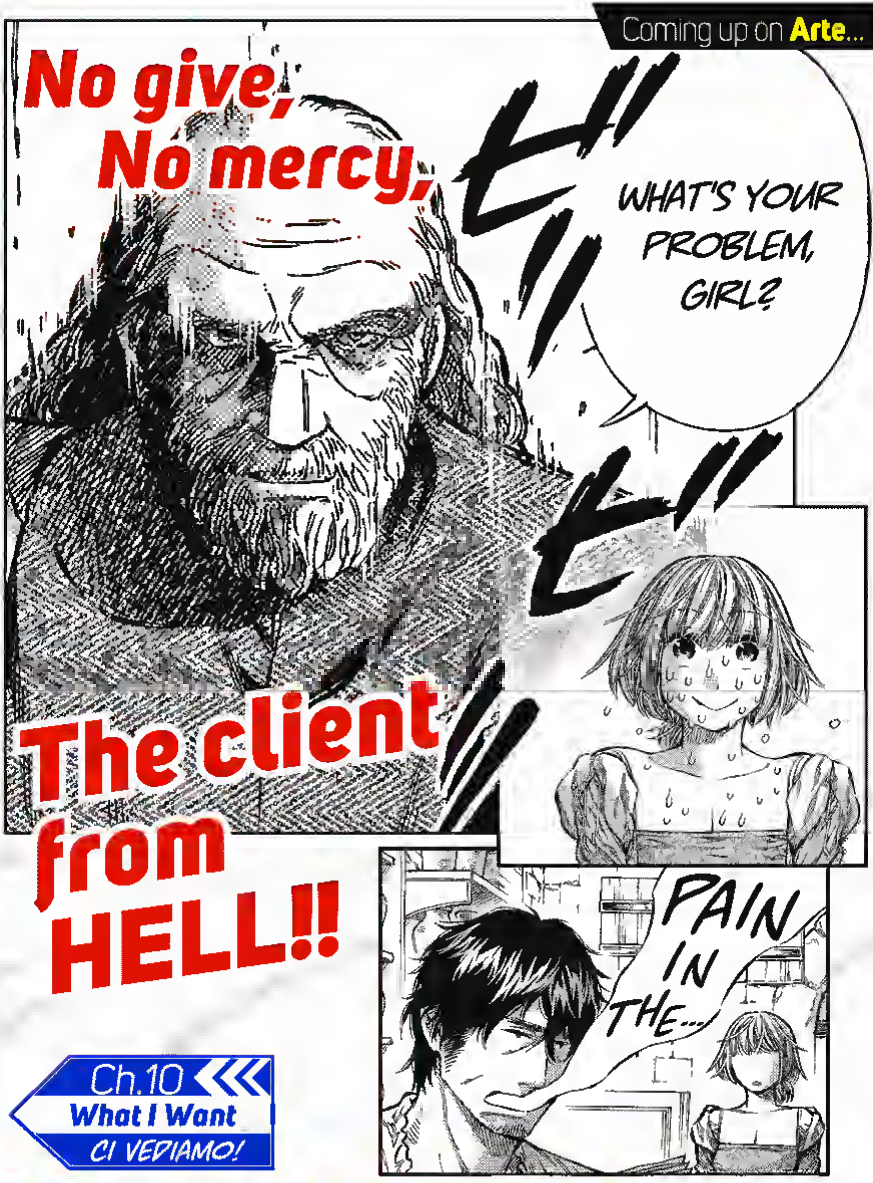
TAKE A LITTLE MORE PRIDE IN MYSELF...?


Clachink
CLINCH
CLING
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
KNOCK
KNOCK
WHO IS IT?

THE MONEY ISN'T FOR A DOWRY, BUT FOR THE FUTURE!

♦ Ch. 9 END ♦

Coming up on **Arte**...



Ch.10
What I Want
CI VEDIAMO!

NEXT CHAPTER Released on **4th May 2016 (Wed)** - Don't Miss it!